

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 2021

**Thursday, July 15, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Governmental Center
Commission Chambers, 2nd Floor
400 Boardman Ave
Traverse City, MI 49684**

**Apportionment Commission Website: www.gtcountymi.gov/2488
(231) 922-4760 (County Clerk)**

**Meeting will be recorded and broadcast on Community TV Channel 189
Video Website: <https://www.tacm.tv/communitytvshows.asp>**

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call:
 - Bonnie Scheele**, Grand Traverse County Clerk
 - Noelle Moeggenberg**, Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney
 - Heidi Scheppe**, Grand Traverse County Treasurer
 - Chris Cracchiolo**, Grand Traverse County Democratic Party Chair
 - Lisa Trombley**, Grand Traverse County Republican Party Chair
4. Distribution of Materials by Acting Chairperson
5. Election of Permanent Committee Chairperson
6. Adopt Procedural Guidelines
7. Discuss Per Diem for Meeting Attendance
8. Discuss future Meeting Dates
9. Public Comment
10. Adjourn

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY APPORTIONMENT BOARD

MEMBERS:

Prosecuting Attorney	Noelle Moeggenberg
County Clerk	Bonnie Scheele
County Treasurer	Heidi Scheppe
Democratic Party Chairperson	Chris Cracchiolo
Republican Party Chairperson	Lisa Trombley

ALL ACTS SUBJECT TO:

1. Freedom of Information
2. Open Meetings

RULES:

1. As adopted by Apportionment Commission
2. Majority Vote
3. Quorum is 3

GUIDELINES FOR APPORTIONMENTS (MCL 46.404)

1. All districts shall be as nearly of equal population as practicable
2. All districts shall be contiguous
3. All districts shall be as compact and as nearly square shape as is practicable
4. No township or part thereof shall be combined with any city or part thereof unless such combination is needed to meet the population standard.
5. Townships, cities and villages shall generally not be divided.
6. Precinct shall be divided only if necessary to meet population standard.
7. Residents of state institutions who cannot by law register in the county as electors shall be excluded from an consideration of representation.
8. Districts shall not be drawn to effect partisan political advantage.

APPORTIONMENT OF COUNTY BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS
Act 261 of 1966

AN ACT to provide for the apportionment of county boards of commissioners; to prescribe the size of the board; to provide for appeals; to prescribe the manner of election of the members of the county board of commissioners; to provide for compensation of members; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1968, Act 153, Imd. Eff. June 13, 1968;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1998, Act 203, Eff. Mar. 23, 1999.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

46.401 County apportionment commission; apportionment of county into county commissioner districts.

Sec. 1. (1) Within 60 days after the publication of the latest United States official decennial census figures, the county apportionment commission in each county of this state shall apportion the county into not less than 5 nor more than 21 county commissioner districts as nearly of equal population as is practicable and within the limitations of section 2.

(2) If a county is not in compliance with section 2 on the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, the county apportionment commission of that county shall, within 30 days of the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, apportion the county in compliance with section 2. For subsequent apportionments in a county that is apportioned under this subsection, the county apportionment commission of that county shall comply with the provisions of subsection (1).

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1968, Act 153, Imd. Eff. June 13, 1968;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 2011, Act 280, Eff. Mar. 28, 2012.

Constitutionality: The Michigan Supreme Court reversed a Court of Appeals ruling which held that the first sentence in section 1(2) of 2011 PA 280, MCL 46.401, violates section 29 of article IV of the state constitution of 1963. The Court of Appeals ruled that the provision constituted an improperly enacted local act and should be stricken from the act (Frank Houston et al. v Governor and Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Nos. 308724 and 308725). The Michigan Supreme Court, in its holding that the law is constitutional, stated that while the law may apply only to Oakland county immediately, the law could apply to any county in the future that meets the population requirements.

46.402 Number of county commissioners based on county population.

Sec. 2.

County Population	Number of Commissioners
Under 5,001	Not more than 7
5,001 to 10,000	Not more than 10
10,001 to 50,000	Not more than 15
Over 50,000	Not more than 21

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 2004, Act 369, Imd. Eff. Oct. 11, 2004;—Am. 2011, Act 280, Eff. Mar. 28, 2012.

46.403 County apportionment commission; membership; convening apportionment commission; adopting rules of procedure; quorum; action by majority vote; conducting business at public meeting; notice of meeting; availability of certain writings to public.

Sec. 3. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the county apportionment commission shall consist of the county clerk, the county treasurer, the prosecuting attorney, and the statutory county chairperson of each of the 2 political parties receiving the greatest number of votes cast for the office of secretary of state in the last preceding general election. If a county does not have a statutory chairperson of a political party, the 2 additional members shall be a party representative from each of the 2 political parties receiving the greatest number of votes cast for the office of secretary of state in the last preceding general election and appointed by the chairperson of the state central committee for each of the political parties. In a county with a population of 1,000,000 or more that has adopted an optional unified form of county government under 1973 PA 139, MCL 45.551 to 45.573, with an elected county executive, the county apportionment commission shall be the county board of commissioners. The clerk shall convene the apportionment commission and they shall adopt their rules of procedure. A majority of the members of the apportionment commission shall be a quorum sufficient to conduct its business. All action of the apportionment commission shall be by majority vote of the commission.

(2) The business which the apportionment commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting

held in compliance with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. Public notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting shall be given in the manner required by the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

(3) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the commission in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1977, Act 185, Imd. Eff. Nov. 17, 1977;—Am. 2011, Act 280, Eff. Mar. 28, 2012.

46.404 County commissioner districts; guidelines for apportionment.

Sec. 4. In apportioning the county into commissioner districts, the county apportionment commission shall be governed by the following guidelines in the stated order of importance:

(a) All districts shall be single-member districts and as nearly of equal population as is practicable. The latest official published figures of the United States official census shall be used in this determination, except that in cases requiring division of official census units to meet the population standard, an actual population count may be used to make such division. Other governmental census figures of total population may be used if taken subsequent to the last decennial United States census and the United States census figures are not adequate for the purposes of this act. The secretary of state shall furnish the latest official published figures to the county apportionment commissions forthwith upon this act taking effect, and within 15 days after publication of subsequent United States official census figures.

A contract may be entered into with the United States census bureau to make any special census if the latest United States decennial census figures are not adequate.

(b) All districts shall be contiguous.

(c) All districts shall be as compact and of as nearly square shape as is practicable, depending on the geography of the county area involved.

(d) No township or part thereof shall be combined with any city or part thereof for a single district, unless such combination is needed to meet the population standard.

(e) Townships, villages and cities shall be divided only if necessary to meet the population standard.

(f) Precincts shall be divided only if necessary to meet the population standard.

(g) Residents of state institutions who cannot by law register in the county as electors shall be excluded from any consideration of representation.

(h) Districts shall not be drawn to effect partisan political advantage.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

46.405 Apportionment plan; filing by county apportionment commission; access.

Sec. 5. The apportionment plan approved by the commission shall be filed in the office of the county clerk at which time it shall become effective, and copies of it shall be forthwith forwarded by the county clerk to the secretary of state for filing and shall be made available at cost to any registered voter of the county.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967.

46.406 Apportionment plan; petition for review.

Sec. 6. Any registered voter of the county within 30 days after the filing of the plan for his county may petition the court of appeals to review such plan to determine if the plan meets the requirements of the laws of this state. Any findings of the court of appeals may be appealed to the supreme court of the state as provided by law.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967.

46.407 Apportionment plan; failure of apportionment commission to submit; submission by registered voter.

Sec. 7. If the apportionment commission has failed to submit a plan for its county within 60 days but not less than 30 days after the latest official published census figures are available or within such additional time as may be granted by the court of appeals for good cause shown on petition from the apportionment commission, any registered voter of the county may submit a plan to the commission for approval. The commission shall choose from among those submitted to it a plan meeting the requirements of the laws of this state and file such plan in the office of the county clerk as set forth in section 5 within 30 days after the deadline for the filing of the commission's own plan or any extension granted thereon.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967.

46.408 Official apportionment plan.

Sec. 8. Once an apportionment plan has been found constitutional and according to the provisions of this act and all appeals have been exhausted, or if no appeal is taken, when the time for appeal has expired, that plan shall be the official apportionment plan for the county until the next United States official decennial census figures are available.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967.

46.409 County board of commissioners; number per district; prohibited representation.

Sec. 9. The electors of each district established in accordance with this act shall elect 1 county commissioner to the county board of commissioners. There shall be no representation on the county board of commissioners other than that set forth by the provisions of this act.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

46.410 County commissioners; terms.

Sec. 10. The term of each commissioner shall be concurrent with that of state representatives as specified in article 4, section 3 of the state constitution.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

46.411 Candidate for office of county commissioner; qualifications; nomination; filing fee; eligibility.

Sec. 11. A candidate for the office of county commissioner shall be a resident and registered voter of the district that he or she seeks to represent and shall remain a resident and registered voter to hold his or her office, if elected. Nominations and elections for commissioners shall be by partisan elections. In order for the name of a candidate for nomination for the office of county commissioner to appear on the official primary ballot, a nominating petition or \$100.00 filing fee shall be filed with the county clerk. The nominating petition shall have been signed by a number of qualified and registered electors residing within the district as determined under section 544f of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.544f. The deadline for filing nomination petitions or filing fees is the same as for a candidate for state representative. A person who has been convicted of a violation of section 12a(1) of 1941 PA 370, MCL 38.412a, is not eligible to be a county commissioner for 20 years after the conviction.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1982, Act 504, Eff. Mar. 30, 1983;—Am. 2002, Act 158, Eff. Jan. 1, 2003.

46.411a County board of commissioners; candidates for office, filing fees, returns and forfeitures.

Sec. 11a. For candidates paying a filing fee in lieu of filing petitions under section 11, the filing fees shall be returned to all such candidates who shall be nominated and to a like number of candidates who are next highest in order thereto in the number of votes received in the primary election; and in case 2 or more candidates shall tie in having the lowest number of votes allowing a refund hereunder, the sum of \$100.00 shall be divided or prorated among them. The deposits of all other defeated candidates, as well as the deposits of all candidates who may withdraw or be disqualified, shall be forfeited and the candidates shall be notified of the forfeitures.

History: Add. 1969, Act 284, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

46.411b Violation of MCL 168.1 to 168.992 applicable to petitions; penalties.

Sec. 11b. A petition under section 11, including the circulation and signing of the petition, is subject to section 488 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.488. A person who violates a provision of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 to 168.992, applicable to a petition described in this section is subject to the penalties prescribed for that violation in the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 to 168.992.

History: Add. 1998, Act 203, Eff. Mar. 23, 1999.

46.412 Vacancy in office of commissioner; appointment; special election.

Sec. 12. (1) When a vacancy occurs in the office of commissioner by death, resignation, removal from the district, or removal from office, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment within 30 days by the county board of commissioners of a resident and registered voter of that district. A person who has been convicted of a violation of section 12a(1) of 1941 PA 370, MCL 38.412a, shall not be eligible for appointment to the office of county commissioner for a period of 20 years after conviction. Subject to subsection (2), the person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(2) A special election scheduled for August 6, 2013 by a county board of commissioners to fill a vacancy

in the office of commissioner that occurred in 2013 before the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection shall be held, and the person elected at the special election held on August 6, 2013 to fill the vacancy in the office of commissioner shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1972, Act 180, Imd. Eff. June 17, 1972;—Am. 1978, Act 18, Imd. Eff. Feb. 15, 1978;—Am. 1982, Act 504, Eff. Mar. 30, 1983;—Am. 2013, Act 84, Imd. Eff. June 28, 2013.

46.413 Failure to fill vacancy; special election.

Sec. 13. (1) If the county board of commissioners does not fill a vacancy in the office of commissioner as provided in section 12 within 30 days, that vacancy shall be filled by a special election. The special election shall be called by the county board of commissioners.

(2) The person elected at the special election to fill the vacancy in the office of commissioner shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

History: Add. 2013, Act 84, Imd. Eff. June 28, 2013.

46.414 Repeal; effective date; validity of actions.

Sec. 14. Section 27 of Act No. 279 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, being section 117.27 of the Compiled Laws of 1948, is repealed. This section shall become effective in any county upon taking office of supervisors elected pursuant to this act. Any action taken by any board of supervisors shall not be invalid solely due to the provisions of this section.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1968, Act 153, Imd. Eff. June 13, 1968.

46.415 County board of commissioners; compensation and mileage reimbursement of members.

Sec. 15. (1) A member of the county board of commissioners shall receive the compensation and mileage reimbursement fixed by resolution of the county board of commissioners or for a county which has a county officers compensation commission, fixed by a determination of the county officers compensation commission which is not rejected.

(2) The per mile mileage reimbursement fixed by the county board of commissioners or the county officers compensation commission shall not exceed the mileage reimbursement set for state officers as determined by the state officers compensation commission.

(3) Except as provided under subsection (5), changes in compensation shall become effective only after the time members of the county board of commissioners commence their terms of office after a general election, provided that it is voted upon before the commencement of the new terms of office, or for a county which has a county officers compensation commission, after the beginning of the first odd numbered year after the determination is made by the county officers compensation commission and is not rejected.

(4) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a structured change in compensation implemented in phases over the term of office.

(5) A change in compensation under subsections (1) and (3) may be made in 2005 to be effective on or after January 1, 2006.

(6) As used in this section, "compensation" shall not include mileage reimbursement.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1968, Act 153, Imd. Eff. June 13, 1968;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 1975, Act 207, Imd. Eff. Aug. 21, 1975;—Am. 1978, Act 476, Eff. Dec. 1, 1978;—Am. 1980, Act 187, Imd. Eff. July 3, 1980;—Am. 2005, Act 20, Imd. Eff. May 5, 2005.

46.416 References to county supervisors deemed to mean county commissioners.

Sec. 16. All references to county supervisors or county boards of supervisors in any other act shall be deemed to mean county commissioners and county boards of commissioners as established by this act and such county boards of commissioners shall be the county board of supervisors referred to in article 7 of the state constitution.

History: Add. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Prior to 1969, the Grand Traverse County Board of Supervisors consisted of the supervisor from each township and 4-5 representatives from the City of Traverse City.

In 1968, an election was held to fill 15 Supervisor districts.

District 1	Traverse City 1
District 2	Traverse City 2
District 3	Traverse City 3
District 4	Traverse City 10 and part of Traverse City 4
District 5	Traverse City 5 and part of Traverse City 4
District 6	Traverse City 6
District 7	Traverse City 7
District 8	Traverse City 9 and part of Traverse City 10
District 9	Peninsula Twp.
District 10	Green Lake and Long Lake Twps.
District 11	Garfield Twp.
District 12	Grant, Mayfield, and part of East Bay 1 Twps.
District 13	Fife Lake, Paradise, and Union Twps.
District 14	Acme and Whitewater Twps.
District 15	East Bay 2 and part of East Bay 1 Twp.

On January 14, 1970, the Grand Traverse County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion changing the Grand Traverse County Board of Supervisors to the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.

1970 census resulted in the redrawing of Commissioner Districts.

District 1	Traverse City 1 and 5
District 2	Traverse City 2
District 3	Traverse City 3
District 4	Traverse City 4
District 5	Traverse City 6 and part of Traverse City 8
District 6	Traverse City 9 and part of Traverse City 8
District 7	Traverse City 7
District 8	Peninsula Twp
District 9	Garfield 1
District 10	Garfield 2
District 11	Green Lake and Long Lake Twps
District 12	Blair, Grant and Mayfield Twps.
District 13	Fife Lake, Paradise, and Union Twps.
District 14	Acme and Whitewater Twps
District 15	East Bay Twp.

**1980 Census resulted in the redrawing of Commissioner Districts
Commissioner Districts reduced to 9.**

District 1	Peninsula 1 & 2 and Traverse City 9
District 2	Garfield 1 and Long Lake
District 3	Blair 1, Grant and Green Lake
District 4	Blair 2, Fife Lake, Mayfield, and Paradise
District 5	East Bay 3, Acme, Union, and Whitewater 1 & 2
District 6	East Bay 1 & 2 and Garfield 4
District 7	Garfield 2 & 3 and Traverse City 10
District 8	Traverse City 5, 6, 7, & 8
District 9	Traverse City 1, 2, 3, & 4

1990 Census resulted in the redrawing of Commissioner Districts

District 1	Peninsula 1 & 2 and Traverse City 9
District 2	Garfield 5 and Long Lake 1 & 2
District 3	Blair 1, Grant and Green Lake 1 & 2
District 4	Blair 2, Fife Lake, Mayfield, and Paradise.
District 5	East Bay 4, Acme 1 & 2, and Whitewater
District 6	East Bay 2 & 3, Garfield 4, and Union
District 7	Garfield 1, 2, & 3
District 8	Traverse City 7 & 8 and East Bay 1
District 9	Traverse City 1, 3 & 10

2000 Census resulted in the redrawing of Commissioner Districts

District 1	Peninsula 1 & 2, Traverse City 9, and East Bay 1
District 2	Acme 1 & 2, Whitewater, Union, and Fife Lake
District 3	East Bay 2, 3 & 4
District 4	Garfield 1, 2, & 3
District 5	Garfield 4 and Traverse City 7 & 8
District 6	Blair 1, Green Lake 1, and Long Lake 2
District 7	Garfield 5 and Traverse City 1, 3, & 10
District 8	Blair 2, Mayfield, and Paradise 1 & 2
District 9	Long Lake 1 & 3, Green Lake 2, and Grant

**2010 Census resulted in the redrawing of Commissioner Districts.
Commissioner Districts reduced to 7**

District 1	Peninsula 1 & 2, Traverse City 7, 8, & 9
District 2	Garfield 3 & 4, Traverse City 1, 3, & 10
District 3	Blair 3, Garfield 1, 2, 5, & 6
District 4	Green Lake 2, Long Lake 1, 2, & 3
District 5	Blair 1, 2, & 4, Grant 1, Green Lake 1, Mayfield 1
District 6	Acme 1 & 2, East Bay 1 & 4, Whitewater 1
District 7	East Bay 2 & 3, Fife Lake 1, Paradise 1 & 2, Union 1

**GRAND TRAVESRE COUNTY
APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION**

2021 RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. In accordance with the law, three or more members of the Commission represent a quorum at any meeting. A majority vote of the quorum present is required so that action can be taken.
2. The sum of all cities, villages, and townships in the County shall be used as the total County population figure in preparing the plan.
3. Only members of the Commission may submit plans except as otherwise provided by law.
4. No one commissioner shall submit more than three plans.
5. Each plan submitted shall contain the following information:
 - A. One Grand Traverse County map that clearly identifies each proposed commissioner district shall be made available in the Office of the County Clerk for inspection purposes.
 - B. Seven copies of detailed census information that clearly indicates the population figures in each proposed district shall be made available. One copy shall be used for verification purposes. One copy shall be made available in the Office of the County Clerk for inspection purposes. The Chairman shall have one copy sent to each of the five commissioners within 24 hours after receipt for their consideration.
 - C. A word description of each district shall be made available for clarification purposes.
6. The County Clerk shall have delivered to each member all census information within 14 days after the effective date the Secretary of State of Michigan certified the Federal Census figures.
7. All plans shall be submitted to the Office of the County Clerk within 33 days after the effective date the Secretary of State certifies the census. The County Clerk's Office shall time stamp, assign a number and indicate the author's name on each plan received.
8. The author of each plan may make amendments to his or her plan for the purpose of making adjustments to the district lines and/or population figures.

9. Errors found in the verification process of a plan shall be noted in writing. The Chairman shall make six copies of the noted errors and shall have one copy made available in the Office of the County Clerk. One copy shall also be sent within 24 hours to each of the five commissioners. If a plan is verified as being correct, the chairman shall have each member notified in writing. Correction of errors shall be made by the author in the form of an amendment to the plan.
10. Amendments shall be delivered to the Office of the County Clerk within 40 days after the effective date the Secretary of State certifies the census.
11. Amendments to each plan shall contain the same information required in number 5A, 5B, and 5C of these Rules of Procedure as well as author's name and the assigned plan number.
12. A final plan shall be verified and approved by the commission within 60 days from the effective date the Secretary of State certifies the census.
13. Meetings of the Commission shall be set as follows:
 - A. upon call of the Chairman
 - B. upon a signed written request to the Chairman by three members
 - C. by majority vote of the members present at the meeting
14. All meetings called shall conform to the open meetings provision of the law.
 - A. Public Comment shall be at the beginning of the agenda and members of the public shall have three (3) minutes to speak.
15. The Commission shall forward any legal questions to the County's Civil Counsel for an opinion.

APPROVED BY THE APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION ON _____.

Chair

Grand Traverse County Apportionment Commission

Coming this Fall: Free County Commissioner Redistricting Tool

In order to assist counties in drawing their county commission districts more quickly and efficiently, BOE is working with the Michigan Center for Shared Solutions (CSS), the state agency that maintains geographic information systems (GIS) for the state of Michigan, to create a web-based reapportionment application for County Commissioner Districts (CCD). Counties will be able to utilize this tool free of charge in their reapportionment process. This may assist counties that might otherwise need to purchase additional software or programs for county commissioner district reapportionment. BOE's goal is to have this tool available for county use on September 1, 2021. For more information on the redistricting process, see the following article.

The web-based CCD tool will contain the following:

- 2020 Census Blocks and demographic data.
- Ability to create multiple plans for evaluation purposes with population and other evaluation criteria.
- Ability to finalize plan and create descriptions and maps needed for final reporting.
- Ability to export final shapefile for use in other applications and maps.

For additional information regarding the CCD Reapportionment Tool, please contact David Tarrant at 517-335-3230.

Census Data, Redistricting, and 2022 Statewide Elections

Under Proposal 2018-2, Michigan's U.S. House of Representatives, State Senate, and State House districts will be drawn by an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC). Because the United States Census Bureau has announced that redistricting data, which normally would have been available in March 2021, will not be available until September 2021, the ICRC and the Secretary of State have filed a [lawsuit](#) in the Michigan Supreme Court requesting that the deadlines for finalizing districts be extended from the current Fall 2021 deadline to January 2022.

January districts will accelerate the timeline under which new districts must be incorporated into the Qualified Voter File (QVF) so that all voters are properly reassigned and given the proper ballots for the August and November 2022 elections. After new districts for State House, State Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives are established, the Bureau of Elections (BOE) must update the voter registration records for any registered voters who have moved into a different district. Although only the three categories of districts listed above are drawn by the ICRC, the process for drawing other districts is also affected by the Census delay.

Counties can begin drawing commissioner districts as soon as they receive the Census redistricting data in September 2021. However, until after state legislative and congressional districts are finalized counties will not be able to ensure they draw county commission districts that are wholly contained within a single state legislative or congressional district.

Additionally, precincts can be established before state legislative and congressional districts are drawn (they must be established by April 4, 2022, MCL 168.661), but doing so before other districts are drawn

does not allow municipalities to avoid “precinct splits” – to the extent possible, voters in the precinct should receive the same ballot style with the same races, as opposed to a “split” precinct where voters may get different ballot styles.

Municipalities may have requirements in their city or township charter that requires municipal districts to be drawn subject to earlier deadlines that may be affected, directly or indirectly, by the delay of the Census redistricting data from March to September. Local clerks should consult with their local counsel on how to address these deadlines given Census delays. The ICRC’s [lawsuit](#) may be a helpful point of reference in this discussion.

The BOE completes the process of reassigning voters to new districts using the QVF and the QVF Street Index, which includes registration records for all registered voters and the list of addresses with registered voters. After BOE receives the new district lines, it must move any voter whose district has changed into the new district in the voter’s QVF record. Many moves can be completed using a “global” or “batch” software command process, in which a set of addresses in a given area can all be moved at once. However, a significant number of registrations need to be adjusted or reviewed manually. This is particularly likely to be the case when district lines cut through municipalities or street segments. Some registrations need to be moved manually, one address or street segment at a time.

Although the 2022 State Primary election does not occur until August 2, 2022, voters must be assigned to new state legislative and Congressional districts no later than April 19, 2022, which is the statutory filing deadline for candidates running for this office. This is because, in order to sign a candidate petition, a petition signer must live in the district, and the QVF is used to determine whether voters live in the district when reviewing petition signatures.

After districts are drawn, the Bureau of Elections plans to start with the largest districts – Congressional, State Senate, then State House – in reassigning address through the QVF. As these districts are added and voters are reassigned, BOE will work with local election clerks to verify that the district information is correct. To do this, BOE will provide the changes to the Street Index that have been made for each clerk’s jurisdiction and ask the clerk to review the changes. If clerks identify any errors, either in the district lines that have been added to the street index or the specific assignments of any voter registration records to the new districts, BOE will review these changes and make any needed corrections.

In adding county and municipal boundaries to the Street Index and reassigning voters, BOE will work with county and local clerks to review the boundaries and voter reassignments. County clerks will review county commission district reassignments, and city or township clerks will review precinct boundary changes and other municipal districts if applicable.

Precinct boundary reassignment and review takes multiple months. To avoid disrupting clerks with May 2022 elections, BOE will start with jurisdictions that do not have a May 2022 election and complete precinct reassignments for jurisdictions with May elections after the May election is complete. Precinct boundaries do not need to be completed before candidate filing deadlines, which do not depend on knowing a petition-signer’s precinct, but they do need to be completed before ballots are printed and mailed in June 2022.

Historically, the process of reassigning districts in QVF takes approximately six months. The greatest amount of time is attributable to the manual adjustments of addresses into new districts and manual review; even if this is a minority of addresses, it could still number in the hundreds of thousands needing manual review. The manual process is critical to ensure that every voter gets the correct ballot.

BOE will make a free county commissioner district redistricting tool to streamline that aspect of the process (for more information, see above). BOE is also currently evaluating ways to speed up the timeline during which it incorporates district boundaries and reassigns districts to voters. At this time, BOE does

not yet know the extent to which these changes will be possible and the extent to which they may speed up the timeline.